

The Center for Disease Control reported that from 2001 to 2014, there was a, 6-fold increase in the total number of heroin deaths.

3.4-fold increase in the total number of cocaine deaths.

42 percent increase in the total number of pain relievers deaths.

2.8-fold increase in the total number of opioid deaths.

In 2014, experts said that an astounding 900,000 adults and adolescents ages 12 and older used heroin.

It is evident . . . Heroin kills. Cocaine kills. Over the counter opiates and prescribed medications can kill.

We have the support to do something about it.

A Pew Research Center national survey found that 67 percent of Americans support providing treatment for those who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

Public opinion in local communities shifted to the extent that voters will support using taxpayer dollars for drug treatment. In Cook County Illinois, 76 percent of the electorate overwhelmingly supported a substance use treatment referendum. Voters support Treatment on Demand.

While National Recovery Month means something different for the researcher, for the policy maker, community groups and for people in the neighborhoods.

For the individuals in recovery, National Recovery Month is very personal.

More than a decade ago, we kicked-off the first recovery walk in Cook County. We joined with communities, government, faith-based groups, providers and especially people in recovery. The 13th Annual Recovery Walk will kick-off on September 24, in Union Park.

I urge my colleagues and people all over America to join me in applauding people in recovery for your conscious efforts to remain sober and for being an inspiration for others who sincerely desire to follow in your footsteps.

I urge my colleagues to support legislation which will transform the lives of individuals from addicts to contributing people in recovery.

RECOGNIZING MS. LEETTA C. BEATTY FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Leetta C. Beatty, one of the winners of the 23rd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Ms. Beatty has earned that distinction.

Ms. Beatty suffered a stroke-like incident in April 2016. Since the fateful day of her injury, Leetta has made great gains in her recovery. According to those involved in her rehabilita-

tion efforts, Leetta is known for maintaining her sense of humor throughout the recovery process. She has also been described as hard-working and very cooperative with her healthcare providers and caregivers. Furthermore, she has continued to approach her rehabilitation with high motivation, exemplifying the power of a positive mindset.

I am honored to help celebrate Leetta's impressive efforts and promising recovery, as I believe that her dedicated and positive attitude is something many of us can learn from as we attempt to overcome the hardships in our lives. Furthermore, I am happy to recognize Leetta for her perseverance, and I wish her the best as she continues on the road to full recovery.

## BURMA NEEDS CHANGE FOR SANCTIONS RELIEF

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Burma is still terrible for many of the people there, particularly the ethnic minorities. While the Administration is moving quickly to remove sanctions, our government should slow down and assess what real, sustainable change has actually occurred—many of the same people who were part of the dictatorship are still in power. While there have been some positive changes, ethnic minorities are still being brutally attacked by the Burma Army. Any assessment of Burma's steps toward democracy and human rights climate must take this into account.

I encourage my colleagues to read the message from Kristine Gould and Larry Dohrs of U.S. Campaign for Burma.

## U.S. SHOULD MANDATE CHANGE IN EXCHANGE FOR SANCTIONS RELIEF

It is time for the United States to stop agonizing about economic sanctions against Burma. However, the answer is not simply to remove all sanctions, but to keep targeted sanctions in place while providing a constructive pathway forward to later eliminate those remaining as Burma continues its process of democratic reform.

While there has been significant progress toward such reform—particularly since the November 2015 elections that brought the National League for Democracy into power—it is not complete, and significant challenges must be overcome before a genuine, federal, democratic Union—as well as true peace—can be established.

The Obama administration started to restructure sanctions against Burma in May 2012, when it relaxed a prohibition on new investment, relieved stringent visa bans and allowed exportation of most financial services. In general, three classes of sanctions remain:

1. Export of financial services and provision of security services to individuals and organizations related to the Ministry of Defense, state and non-state armed groups, and businesses that are more than 50 percent owned by military organizations.

2. Import of jadeite and rubies or their finished products.

Investment and business dealings with individuals and organizations identified as Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, commonly referred to as the SDN list.

Armed conflict between Burma's defense services and the country's ethnic armed organizations continues. Even during the recently convened 21st Century Panglong Conference, the government and the Burma Army refused to issue a temporary ceasefire, and battles raged on in Kachin and northern Shan states while stakeholders discussed peace in Naypyidaw.

Exploitation of natural resources continues, with both private individuals and elements of the armed forces profiting significantly from the unrestricted exportation of jade and other natural resources. The military-drafted 2008 Constitution gives the Burma Army significant political power, regardless of the 2015 election results and its clear message from voters that the armed forces should step aside from politics.

Perhaps most significantly, human rights violations by the armed forces and security services organizations continue unabated. Until these issues and challenges are resolved, the United States should keep targeted sanctions in place, as most recently reaffirmed by the U.S. Congress in May 2016.

Just last month, a Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) parliamentarian proposed that Burma's government should attempt to pressure the United States to lift sanctions. The USDP was formed in 2010 by elements of the former military junta, and it ruled the country under former President U Thein Sein from March 2011 to March 2016.

While the proposal was defeated by a vote of 219 to 151, its discussion by lawmakers indicates the importance and value of lifting sanctions. The key here is not to offer blanket relief but to establish a clear pathway forward to eliminate sanctions tied to reform objectives:

1. As long as the Burma Army continues its attacks on ethnic armies and human rights violations, the United States should continue restricting export of defense services, including sales of defense articles and military-to-military assistance.

The armed forces receive more than 20 percent of the country's annual budget, and control two enormous business conglomerates (the Myanmar Economic Corporation and the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings), which are not accountable to the government. While these assets continue to support attacks against the people and perpetuate gross human rights abuses, the United States should not provide military equipment.

The United States has already initiated limited high-level military-to-military contacts focusing on the role of the nation's military forces under a democratic government, the terms of the Geneva Convention and the military's role in protecting its citizens.

This should continue, and the United States should relax funding restrictions that interfere with scheduling and executing these events. However, participation in International Military Education and Training, Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise programs, and other developmental programs must hinge on ending the country's armed conflict and developing a military force that is accountable to an elected civilian government.

2. The Tom Lantos Block Burma JADE Act of 2008 must stay in place until the government cleans up its jadeite and ruby mining practices. An October 2015 report by the London-based NGO Global Witness titled "Jade: Myanmar's Big State Secret" described a US\$31 billion jade industry controlled by a network of military elites, drug lords and crony companies.

Entire mountains in Kachin State housing some of the world's largest jade deposits have disappeared, with only minimal tax revenue and profits reaching Burma's citizens.